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PRESS RELEASE

January 18, 2006

2006 BGCA Overseas Regional Fine Arts Exhibition

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the U.S. military have been involved in a formal partnership supporting military-connected children and youth in the continental United States and on military installations overseas since 1999. This partnership has provided the military with BGCA's vast child and youth resources, including scholarship opportunities, funding for youth centers and annual holiday toy drives.

The military's partnership with BGCA has also provided children and youth with a large array of fun, academically-enriching programming opportunities that involve kids in everything from technology integration and scientific investigations to career planning, small-group leadership clubs and sports and fitness activities.

The BGCA National Fine Arts Exhibit Program is one example of how this partnership has enhanced the programming within military child and youth centers.

Local exhibits are held every fall in BGCA-affiliated after-school centers worldwide. Young people may participate in nine media categories, such as pastel drawing and watercolor painting, in four age categories representing artists from six to eighteen years old.

For many, this might be the only opportunity they ever have to participate in a world-class art exhibit. To acknowledge this, BGCA provides participants with a certificate recognizing their participation. Prizes are not awarded, as these exhibits are not seen as competitions.

After a panel of local judges has selected the finalists, the artwork is then sent on to a regional exhibit where the process will be repeated on a much larger scale. Finally, the art selected from all of the regional exhibits worldwide are sent to the United States to compete in the BGCA National Fine Arts Exhibit.

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Fine Arts Exhibition

Finalists' artwork selected from the national exhibit will tour the United States for one year before finally being returned to their proud creators.

This year, Army Child and Youth Services will host the BGCA 2006 Overseas Regional Fine Arts Exhibit at the BGCA European Youth Development Conference at the Sauerland Stern Hotel in the ski resort town of Willingen, Germany. The exhibit will be held from January 30 to February 2.

The official host site for this Regional Exhibit is Heidelberg CYS School-Age Services.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Biesel at Heidelberg SAS, at DSN 370-8994 or CIV 06221-8994, or Zev Paul, Army CYS Center of Expertise for Youth Programs, at DSN 379-6067 or CIV 06202-80-6067.

Child and Youth Services is an Installation Management Agency-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation program.

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The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from drivers' licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.